

## **SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting**

**September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting of the Southampton Township Committee was held on September 21, 2021 at the Robert L. Thompson Building, 5 Retreat Road, Southampton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Mikulski at 6:00 PM and followed by a salute to the Flag of the United State of America.

A roll call confirmed those Committee members who were present, which included Deputy Mayor Ronald Heston, Committeeman William Raftery, Committeewoman Elizabeth Rossell, Committeeman James F. Young, Sr, and Mayor Michael Mikulski.

The Mayor read the following statement: Public Notice of the meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Township in the following manner: Posting a copy of the agenda on the bulletin board in the municipal building; Filing a copy of the agenda with the Central Record and the Burlington County Times; Posting a copy of the agenda on the Township website; Filing a copy of the agenda in the office of the Municipal Clerk. Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule.

#### **MINUTES:**

Approval of Regular Meeting of August 17, 2021

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Proclamation - Colonel Thomas Reynolds Chapter, DAR, Constitution Week 2021

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution 2021-084

A Resolution Authorizing the Township of Southampton to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement  
Committeeman Raftery made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS 2021-090 through 2021-094**

##### **RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution 2021-090

A Resolution by the Township of Southampton Requesting a Six-Month Extension of Time for Construction Contract Award from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Aid Grant for the 2020/2021 Road Improvement Project

Resolution 2021-091

Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of any Municipality Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948 as Amended)

Resolution 2021-092

A Resolution as Recommended by the Tax Assessor Authorizing the Tax Collector to Make Certain Adjustments to Records and Accounts

**Resolution 2021-093**

**A Resolution as Recommended by the Tax Assessor Authorizing the Tax Collector to Make Certain Adjustments to Records and Accounts**

**Resolution 2021-094**

**Resolution Authorizing Township Officials to Take Certain Actions Concerning Block 3403, Lot 11 to Assign the Township's Tax Lien to an Adjacent Property Owner**

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to approve. Committeeman Young seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Members of the public are invited to submit comments during the public comment portion of this meeting. The Committee, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Committee will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Township Administrator or appropriate Township Representative for resolution. Each citizen will be allotted up to three (3) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to express their opinions or concerns.

Mayor Mikulski opened the meeting to the public.

Evie Doherty, 56 Stratford Road, thanked Deputy Mayor Heston for clarifying Resolution 2021-084 and stated that she is not in favor of outsourcing trash collection. She presented some facts about the Township of Springfield that she had researched and was concerned that since our town is larger we would pay more through a cooperative agreement. Mayor Mikulski said that charges are per house. She also inquired as to who wrote the resolution and was concerned that Southampton and Springfield Townships both have the same Solicitor. Mayor Mikulski assured her that there is no conflict of interest.

Grace Hicks, 152 Main Street, reported a concern about 142 Main Street with several vehicles and a lot of "stuff" so that she is afraid it may draw rats to the area. Additionally, she is concerned with people speeding on Main Street, fire pit usage in town and a car in the alley behind the school's bus barn.

Jessica Torres, 441 North Main Street, asked if the committee had come to any decision regarding the ordinance about the number of dogs residents are allowed to have. Mayor Mikulski said that would require a member of the Committee to make a motion to change the ordinance. Committeeman Raftery made a motion to repeal the ordinance. Township Solicitor George Morris will prepare a draft ordinance for next month's meeting.

Larry O'Rourke, 57 Mayfair, asked if there would be an RFP process regarding outsourcing trash collection and if public comment would be permitted before a decision. Mayor Mikulski informed him that there would be a bid process and that public comment would be permitted before a vote. Mr. O'Rourke also commended the Committee on the Tractor Parade and said it was quite an event and the highlight of the weekend.

Kim McClay, Mt. Laurel resident and friend of Jessica Torres, wished to state that Jessica is committed to her dogs and truly cares about them.

Joe Collis, Hampton Lakes Fire Department, provided a report on the number of calls and activities of the prior month as well as the inspection of detectors and replacement of batteries in detectors.

Jeff Hicks, 152 Main Street, wished to notify residents that the BOE was holding the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of School #1 on October 30, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at School #1.

Eamonn Fitzpatrick, Hampton Lakes Emergency Squad - gave monthly report about calls and various activities of the prior month including participation in the Vincentown Race and Summer Concert Series. Reported 1 new volunteer.

Southampton OEM – gave monthly report indicating no activations despite 2 hurricanes in the area, participation in the Emergency Services Meeting, First Aid/CPR Training, and Firewise in LeisureTowne.

Jim Heffernan, Vincent Fire Company – thanked all who helped with their Bingo event on September 11, 2021. This event resulted in a record turnout as well as a record amount of funds raised. Another event is being planned for March 2022. Mayor Mikulski congratulated the VFC on being awarded a SAFER Grant.

Karen Hardy, 465 New Road, thanked the Committee for the Proclamation and accepted it on behalf of the Colonel Thomas Reynolds Chapter, DAR. She encouraged people to consider membership in DAR which is a very valuable organization. Additionally, she is member of the Tractor Club and participated in the Tractor Parade and thanked the committee for allowing the parade. Finally, as a nurse, she recommends individuals to be vaccinated.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, the public portion was closed.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committeewoman Rossell – updated the Committee and public regarding the following:

- Annual Art Show taking place at the Library on Friday, September 24, 2021 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Saturday, September 25, 2021 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. She noted that September is Library month.
- STAR Foundation annual golf tournament will be held on October 8, 2021.
- The School #1 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will include tours of the school. Rain date will be October 31, 2021.

Committeeman Young – The annual Christmas Concert is planned for December 11, 2021 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. This year instead of bringing toy donations, gift card donations are requested due to COVID. These donations will benefit Southampton families in need.

Mayor Mikulski – wished to recognize Kathy Hoffman and Township staff for quickly bringing together the crossing guard program and the hiring of employees as that responsibility transferred from the Schools to the Township with very little time before the school year began. He also mentioned early voting ballot drop-off locations will be available in Burlington County. Mayor Mikulski discussed the new tax rate and noted that only 14 cents of every dollar is for Township services.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Resolution 2021-095

Authorizing Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to approve. Committeewoman Rossell seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative. For the purpose of discussing certain confidential matters from which meeting the public shall be excluded, potential litigation and contracts. Formal action may be taken.

Let the record reflect the governing body has entered into executive session: 6:40 pm

Let the record reflect the governing body has returned after discussion of the above as stated: 7:15 pm

**RESOLUTION:**

Resolution 2021-096

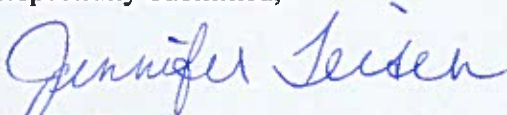
Authorizing In Rem Foreclosure Actions

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to approve. Committeeman Raftery seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:17 pm**

Deputy Mayor Heston made a motion to adjourn. Committeeman Young seconded the motion. At the call of the roll Deputy Mayor Heston, Committeeman Raftery, Committeewoman Rossell, Committeeman Young and Mayor Mikulski all voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Teisen  
Deputy Clerk